

MEMORANDUM

To: National NOW Board Members

From: Jan Erickson, Director, NOW Government Relations, with NOW interns Elena Mieszczanski and Samantha Chen.

Date: July 9, 2019

The U.S. House of Representative has passed more of NOW's priority legislation and other progressive bills in the first six months of the year than have been adopted over several recent decades. Among that amazing list is **For the People Act**, one of the most comprehensive democratic reforms in history addressing sorely needed election reform measures and campaign financing excesses, including bringing sunlight to the "dark money" problem as well as addressing gerrymandering. The bill also provides statehood for the District of Columbia, which NOW supports. If the Senate were to pass this legislation, it be a fundamental – and desperately needed fix for our broken political system.

The House has also adopted the **Paycheck Fairness Act**, something we've been advocating for more than 20 years. Other legislation adopted includes bills to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, plus a bill that would protect "dreamers" and provide a path to citizenship. Other adopted measures would lower the price of prescription drugs, mandate insurance coverage for pre-existing conditions, and, importantly, require universal background checks on all gun sales.

For NOW members and supporters, the most important piece of legislation that the House has acted on is passage of the **Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019**. The measure has been sent to the Senate where very little movement has been detected. Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) have been appointed to lead the effort – getting it passed may require an extraordinary effort on the part of grassroots activists and there is a concern that substantial changes may be made.

The House has held a hearing on removing the deadline for ratification in the 1972 ERA resolution but has not yet conducted committee meetings to mark up the legislation and send it to a floor vote. Allies are sending House Judiciary Committee leaders a letter urging action. Two hearings have been held on Rep. Pramila Jayapal's (D-Wash.) **Medicare for All** legislation (which includes coverage for abortion care). And Majority Leader Steny Hoyer's office has advised that beginning July 15, the House will be voting on a significant increase in the federal minimum wage, the National Defense Appropriations Authorization, and major health care legislation, among others. We understand that hearings will be soon scheduled for Rep. John Larson's (D-Conn) **Social Security 2100 Act** that would increase retirement benefits and assure long-term financing of Social Security by a modest increase in the payroll tax, plus lift the cap on

taxable income so that millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share. Taxes for seniors would also be reduced. This legislation (and others like it) is the result of NOW's advocacy on improving Social Security for women by increasing benefits, as we advocated for more than 10 years ago. However, the measure does not contain our priority for a provision under the Social Security retirement program to attach a value to women's work (outside of the paid workforce) to care for children and ill relatives. We plan to work with legislators to further define how that Caregiver Credit would be administered, prior to re-introduction of the legislation.

NOW Legislative Priorities: 116th Congress

NOW encourages all of its members and supporters to learn about these bills and contact your two senators and representative asking them to co-sponsor the bills, take a leadership role in getting them passed, and to vote in support of these important pieces of legislation. You can [find your representative's contact information here](#).

Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence

Violence Against Women (VAWA) Reauthorization Act of 2019 H.R. 1585

Status: Introduced 3/7/2019; passed House 4/4/2019

Summary: VAWA was first signed in 1994. Since then it has been reauthorized in 2000, 2005, and 2013. The 2013 Act added many important provisions, including extending some protections to the LGBTQ community and Native Americans. Due to the battle over the reauthorization though, these protections were limited. This is a modest reauthorization bill that includes narrowly focused enhancements that address gaps identified by victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence and the people who work on the ground with them every day. It reauthorizes 19 VAWA grant programs, expands tribal jurisdiction over non-native perpetrators of sexual violence on tribal lands, and extends protections for members of the LGBTQIA community.

Zero Tolerance for Domestic Abusers Act of 2019/ Protecting Domestic Violence and Stalking Victims Act of 2019 H.R.569/S.120

Status: Introduced 1/15/2019

Summary: These bills would expand the term 'intimate partner' to include a 'dating partner.' Currently, some domestic abusers can obtain firearms because they were not married to or living with the abused. Half (48.6%) of women killed by intimate partners are killed by dating partners whom they do not live with. This law would change that and close this loophole in order to protect survivors of domestic violence and stalking from gun violence.

Savanna's Act

S.227

Status: Introduced 1/25/2019

Summary: American Indian and Alaska Native women are more likely to experience violence, and sexual violence, than any other racial or ethnic group. This is also the only group of which the US government does not compile statistics on the number of missing and murdered Indian women each year. Tribal police often lack the capability to do this research. This act would clarify the role of local police, and increase communication between tribal, federal, and state police on these cases. It would also start compiling these statistics on missing and murdered women and require the AG to consult with tribes on all of these proceedings. The bill was passed unanimously in the Senate in 2018 but could not pass the House.

SAFE Act of 2019 S.627

Status: Introduced 2/28/2019

Summary: Over 1 in 3 women experience sexual violence, and 1 in 5 women are survivors of rape. This bill reauthorizes the National Resource Center Grants on Workplace Responses to Assist Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence originally created in 1994 VAWA. It also ensures that survivors who need to seek out medical attention and legal services can take safe leave from work and obtain unemployment insurance during this time. It would also prevent survivors from being fired because of harassment by an abuser or because they requested safe leave. Lastly it would invest in a national awareness campaign on sexual violence.

H.R.3212/S.1777 - Accountability for Sexual and Gender-based Violence as a Tool in Conflict Act

Senators Edward J. Markey [D-Mass.], Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), and Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Representative Chellie Pingree (D-ME-01)

The United States, as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, voted in favor of Security Council Resolutions which state that acts of sexual violence and human trafficking can constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity, acts of genocide, and terrorism. This Act requires the State Department to expand reported sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) in conflict in its annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. It also amends the Global Magnitsky Act to add sexual and gender-based violence as a human rights violation that would trigger sanctions under the Act and amends the Section 7031(c) corruption/human rights authority to add sexual and gender-based violence as a trigger for travel restrictions.

Workplace Discrimination and Sexual Harassment

**Ending the Monopoly of Power Over Workplace Harassment Through Education and Reporting (EMPOWER) Act
HR. 1521/S. 574/5**

Status: (introduced 3/13/2019)

Summary: The EMPOWER Act will protect employees from workplace harassment and make it less dangerous for survivors to come forward. The bill would outlaw non-disparagement and non-disclosure agreements in employee contracts, require public companies to disclose settlements, and establish a confidential tip-line for reporting.

**BE HEARD in the Workplace Act
H.R.2148/S.1082**

Status: Introduced 4/09/2019

Summary: The Bringing an End to Harassment by Enhancing Accountability and Rejecting Discrimination in the Workplace Act (BE HEARD in the Workplace Act) strengthens and expands the reach of antidiscrimination laws and removes barriers that prevent individuals from accessing justice. It would extend civil rights protections to all employees regardless of business size, and to those who don't fall under the category of "employee," including independent contractors, volunteers, interns, fellows and trainees. The bill also provides LGBTQIA workers with protection from employment discrimination.

**Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act of 2019
H.R.36**

Status: Introduced 2/12/2019

Summary: 58 percent of individuals in the academic workplace experience sexual harassment, and women are more likely to experience sexual harassment than men. Most individuals also fail to report sexual harassment out of justified fear of retaliation. This bill would call for research on sexual harassment in the scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematics industries. It would create a grant program under the National Science Foundation to award and encourage universities to study this important topic.

Abortion

**Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH Woman) Act
HR. 1692/S. 758**

Status: introduced 3/12/2019

Summary: The 1976 Hyde Amendment put funding bans on abortion coverage for recipients of Medicaid, Medicare, Native Americans, federal employees, Peace Corps volunteers, etc. 35 states do not cover abortion in their state Medicaid plans. The effects are far-reaching: Most reproductive-age women enrolled in Medicaid who are subject to abortion coverage restrictions are women of color. The EACH Woman Act ensures affordable abortion coverage and care for women (effectively repealing the Hyde Amendment which prevents federal funds being used to provide abortion care). It prohibits states from interfering with abortion care and requires public health insurance to cover abortion.

Women's Health Protection Act H.R. 2975

Status: Introduced 5/23/10

Summary: This act counters many of the common TRAP laws (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers) and prohibits any government from imposing them on abortion providers. Many states have TRAP laws to impose burdensome and undue requirements on doctors and clinics that provide abortions, in an effort to restrict access. In 2017, the Guttmacher Institute found that 22 states had enacted multiple bills that were hostile to abortion rights.

H.R.3129/S.1735 - Jeanette Acosta Invest in Women's Health Act of 2019

Senator Patty Murray [D-WA] and Representative Jimmy Gomez [D-CA-34]

This Act would provide women with increased access to preventive and life-saving cancer screening, including clinical breast exams and cervical, ovarian, uterine, vaginal, and vulvar cancer screening, especially for populations most at risk. The Act would increase funding to women's health care providers and establish 3-year grants to eligible entities for the training of health care providers related to cancer screening for women. In 2015, the cancers that most frequently impact women included breast, uterine, ovarian, and cervical cancer. It was found that women of color had a disproportionate rate of incidence of cervical cancer and had a rate of death that was 2% higher than white women's rate of death for uterine cancer. Deaths from these cancers occur disproportionately among women who are uninsured or underinsured, so it is imperative that women have access to preventative cancer screenings to ensure early detection and life-saving treatment.

Equal and Fair Pay

Paycheck Fairness Act HR. 7/S. 270

Status: Introduced 1/30/2019; passed House 3/27/2019

Summary: On average, women are paid only 80 cents for every man's dollar, and this gap is even wider for women of color when broken down by race. This bill would close loopholes in the 1963 Equal Pay Act by increasing penalties for wage discrimination and assuring that employers determine wages through the factors of experience, training, and education, rather than sex. The act would also direct federal agencies to collect and release data on compensation discrimination. Read NOW's statement on this bill [here](#).

Raise the Wage Act H.R.582/S.150

Status: Introduced 3/06/2019

Summary: This bill would increase the minimum wage to \$15 by 2023. The wage would be increased incrementally every year until 2023 for a 6-year gradual rollout. This bill would also expand wages for individuals with disabilities and tipped employees.

H.R.2148/S.1082 - BE HEARD in the Workplace Act

Senator Patty Murray [D-WA] and Representative Katherine M. Clark [D-MA-5]

Workplace discrimination laws are unclear and often unenforceable, especially when it comes to sex-based discrimination. Defining the terms of “sex discrimination” is necessary to ensure women and LGBTQIA+ individuals are protected. The purposes of this Act are to prevent and reduce prohibited discrimination and harassment in employment and the workplace by updating and clarifying employment nondiscrimination laws and expanding worker’ access to advocacy services and legal counsel.

Congressional Accountability Act (CAA) Enhancement Act

Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA) and Bradley Byrne (R-AL)

Last year, Congress took a step towards fixing Congress’ broken workplace harassment and discrimination system by passing the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA) of 1995 Reform Act. Members came together across party lines to reform the antiquated system, ensure a safe and dignified workplace for Congressional employees, and hold Members, not taxpayers, accountable for their actions.

Through the CAA Reform Act, victims of sexual harassment and discrimination are no longer subject to mandatory counselling, mediation, and cooling-off periods; non-disclosure agreements are only allowed if the employee agrees to one; interns and fellows have the same rights as permanent staff; and taxpayers no longer foot the bill for Members’ harassing behavior.

The Congressional Accountability Act (CAA) Enhancement Act would enact two new important provisions, which:

- Requires an independent investigation by the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights’ (formerly the Office of Compliance) for an allegation of harassment or discrimination. This provides parity with what Congress has already mandated on private sector employers. Unfortunately, by dropping this provision in the CAA Reform Act, Congress continues to treat itself differently than the private sector and give its employees fewer rights and Protections.
- Requires that Members of Congress be held personally liable for the discrimination and related retaliation acts they personally commit. The CAA Reform Act made Members liable for harassment and related retaliation, but discrimination was dropped from the final bill. If a member personally commits an act of discrimination, they should pay for it, not the taxpayers.

Family and Medical Leave

FAMILY Act, Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act
HR. 1185/S. 463

Status: Introduced 2/13/2019

Summary: In 2018, over 100 million people (83 percent of workers) did not have paid family leave through their jobs. Only 17 percent of the workforce has paid family leave through their employers, and less than 40 percent has personal medical leave through an employer-provided short-term disability program (US Bureau of Labor). The FAMILY Act seeks to provide paid family medical leave benefits for many of these individuals. This bill would create a national family and medical leave insurance program that would guarantee paid leave for 12 weeks to new parents. It would enable workers to Earn 66 percent of their monthly wages during that time, and would cover all individuals regardless of workplace, job, or size of employer. This bill would create a new Office of Paid Family and Medical Leave.

Healthy Families Act
H.R.1784/ S.840

Status: Introduced 3/14/2019

Summary: This bill would expand paid sick leave at all workplaces with over 15 employees, allowing workers to use paid sick leave to use when they are ill, need to care for a sick family member, obtain preventive care, or address the impacts of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault. This would amount to seven days of paid sick leave per year for these employees – workplaces with this already in effect would need to make no changes. (Information from Senator Tim Kaine’s press release)

Civil Rights and Gender Discrimination

Equality Act
HR. 5/S. 788

Status: Introduced 3/13/2019

Summary: The Equality Act seeks to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation by amending the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and expanding prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation in places of public accommodation. Laws like the Religious Freedom Act have allowed businesses and employers to discriminate against LGBTQ people and this law would finally change that practice.

Amend the Code for Marriage Equality Act of 2019
H.R.94

Status: Introduced 1/03/2019

Summary: This bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code (IRC), the Social Security Act (SSAct), and many other acts so the words “husband and wife” are changed to “spouse” and “married couple” to be more inclusive in the wake of the 2015 Marriage Equality Supreme Court decision.

S.1252 - LOVE Act of 2019

Senator Bob Menendez [D-NJ]

During the “Lavender Scare” in the 1950’s and 1960’s, at least one thousand people were wrongfully fired from the State Department for allegedly being homosexuals. This Act would allow these former employees of the State Department to testify to a Reconciliation Board and ask that their employment record be changed to reflect the Department’s discriminatory actions. The Act would also establish a permanent exhibit in the United States Diplomacy Center museum detailing the “Lavender Scare” to ensure that the Department’s history of discrimination is not forgotten.

H.R.2402/S.1246 - Fair and Equal Housing Act of 2019

Senator Tim Kaine [D-VA] and Representative Bradley Schneider [D-IL-10]

This Act would amend and strengthen the Fair Housing Act to further define discrimination on the basis of sex as including sexual orientation and gender identity. This would offer more complete protections to LGBTQIA+ people.

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Constitutional Equality

Joint Resolution Removing the Deadline for Ratification of the ERA

H.J Res. 38/ S.J. Res. 6 (introduced 1/30/2019)

Status: Introduced 1/30/2019

Summary: This joint resolution eliminates the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). The ERA was proposed to the states in the 92nd Congress, and agreed to in the Senate in March, 1972. The amendment will be part of the Constitution when it is ratified by the legislatures of 3/4 of the states, and there is currently only one state left to go. However, Congress set a deadline for the ratification that has expired and this resolution would end that deadline.

Medicare/Healthcare

Medicare for All Act of 2019 (introduced 2/27/2019)

HR. 1384/S.1129

Status: Introduced 2/27/2019 (House) and 4/10/2019 (Senate)

Summary: This bill is the most progressive health care legislation to date. This bill would assure equal access to healthcare, and includes a comprehensive and complete list of women’s reproductive health services. With a preemption of the restrictive and harmful Hyde Amendment, this bill will finally allow and empower women to make their own decisions about their health.

**MOMMA's Act
H.R.1897/S.916**

Status: Introduced 3/27/2019

Summary: In the developing world, the United States has one of the worst maternal mortality rates. The United States maternal mortality rate is estimated at 26.4 per 100,000 live births, a number comparable to Iraq and Afghanistan. Experts also agree that over 60% of the maternal deaths in the United States are preventable. The Mothers and Offspring Mortality and Morbidity Awareness Act (MOMMA's Act) would standardize data collection nationwide on maternal mortality rates by creating review committees. It would also expand Medicaid coverage for postpartum care and would enhance training for healthcare professionals on cultural competency and implicit bias.

**Childcare
American Family Act of 2019
H.R. 1560/ S.690**

Status: Introduced 3/06/2019

Summary: Child poverty is a problem in the United States. 21 percent of all American children live in families with incomes below the federal poverty line. This bill would strengthen the Child Tax Credit (CTC), and would create a Young Child Tax Credit for families with children under 6. This would effectively provide families with \$3,000 per year per child aged six to 18. All families except the highest earners would be eligible for this tax credit. This act would also provide the credit to families without any income, as to not exclude the poorest.

**Child Care for Working Families Act
H.R.1364/S.568**

Status: Introduced 2/26/2019

Summary: Childcare costs have increased 25% in the past decade, and in 33 states and DC, costs of infant care exceed the average cost of in-state public college tuition. The Child Care for Working Families Act would ensure that no family under 150% of state median income pays more than seven percent of their income on child care. It would create a sliding scale payment, and would create and support universal preschool education. The bill would also improve compensation and training for the childcare workforce.

Racial Equality

**Emmett Till Antilynching Act
H.R.35**

Status: Introduced 1/03/2019

Summary: This bill would finally qualify lynching as a hate crime.

Immigration Reform

Freedom of Religion Act of 2019

H.R.590

Status: Introduced 1/16/2019

Summary: This bill would amend the Immigration and Nationality so that immigrants cannot be denied admission, or other immigration benefits, because of religion. This, like **H.R. 810**, which would block Trump's Muslim ban, are direct responses to the ban and the President's anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim rhetoric.

DREAMers, Immigrants, and Refugees (DIRE) Legal Aid Act

H.R.656

Status: Introduced 1/17/2019

Summary: This bill would require the Attorney General to make grants to nonprofit organizations to offer legal assistance to certain asylum seekers, DACA recipients and refugees. The allocation for this program would be \$5,000,000.

American Dream and Promise Act of 2019

H.R. 6

Status: Introduced 3/12/2019

Summary:H.R. 6 is a sweeping Immigration reform bill that provides provide a path to U.S. citizenship for undocumented youth, people who have or are eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), people who had or were eligible for temporary protected status (TPS) or people with deferred enforced departure (DED). Courts have temporality blocked termination of these programs, but their status is still at risk.

Stop Shackling and Detaining Pregnant Women Act

S.648

Status:3/05/2019

Summary: This act would prohibit Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from detaining pregnant women, and would improve their standards of care. Migrant women report being shackled while pregnant at ICE detention centers, sometimes around the stomach. Several women have reported miscarrying due to poor treatment.

Voting Rights

For the People Act of 2019

H.R.1

Status: Introduced 1/03/2019, passed House 3/08/2019

Summary: This bill would improve voting rights by making it easier for voters to cast a ballot and register to vote. It would also make it more difficult for lawmakers to gerrymander, and introduce major campaign finance reforms. Democrats have been planning this bill since Trump entered office (and even as Republicans took the House), so it is a sweeping passage in the public interest to implement democracy reforms in the Trump-era.

Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019 **H.R.4**

Status: Introduced 2/26/2019

Summary: *Shelby County v. Holder (2013)* struck down Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which outlined the qualifications needed to determine which states are required by the Justice Department to pre-clear election changes in states with a history of voter discrimination. Since the decision, over 20 states have implemented restrictive voter-ID laws and have consolidated polling places or shortened early voting. This bill develops a process to determine which states must pre-clear election changes with the Department of Justice, and will require a nationwide, practice-based pre-clearance of known discriminatory practices, including the creation of at-large districts, inadequate multilingual voting materials and cuts to polling places (information from Rep. Sewell's website).

H.R.645 - Automatic Voter Registration Act

Status: Introduced 1/17/2019

Summary: This bill would amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 so that every individual with a driver's license is automatically registered to vote. This bill comes after multiple instances of potential election meddling in 2018 where people were scrubbed from voter rolls, especially voters of color.

Social Security and Retirement

Women's Retirement Protection Act of 2019 **H.R.2005 /S.975**

Status: Introduced 4/01/2019

Summary: Women's retirement preparedness lags significantly behind men, and women are 80 percent more likely than men to live in poverty after age 65. Women also make up 2/3 all low-wage work (though men make up the majority of all workers) and are more often to have part-time work without retirement benefits. All of this is further complicated by the pay gap, women lose around \$403,440 in wages to over a 40-year career. This bill would address some of the challenges that women face with the retirement gap, namely by strengthening consumer protections to safeguard retirement savings, and expanding access to retirement savings plans by changing the participation standards for part-time workers (who are most often women). This bill would also increase access about retirement and savings through grants to community organizations who help provide this information to women and would support survivors of domestic abuse and the challenges they face with retirement through additional grant programs.

**Social Security 2100 Act
H.R.860/S.269**

Status: Introduced 1/30/2019

Summary: Social Security is an important source of retirement funds for over 4/5 of seniors. This bill would prioritize the popular Social Security program so that it remains solvent for the rest of the century by subjecting those who earn over \$400,000 (top 0.4% of earners) to a payroll tax and increasing benefits across the board for current and future beneficiaries. It would also protect low income workers with new minimum benefit requirements, and would cut taxes for Social Security beneficiaries.

**Surviving Widow(er) Income Fair Treatment Act of 2019 (SWIFT Act)
S.345**

Status: Introduced 2/06/2019

Summary: The poverty rate for widows is much higher than the poverty rate for all Social Security beneficiaries, and these widows are most often women. This bill would allow widows and surviving divorced spouses to receive 100% of survivors benefits regardless of age and would allow beneficiaries to receive child-in-care benefits. It would also increase the value of survivor benefits beyond the current caps.

**Social Security Expansion Act
H.R. 1170/S.478**

Status: Introduced 2/13/2019

Summary: Despite the tremendous progress Social Security has made, half of Americans over 55 have no retirement savings and one in five seniors is living off \$13,500 a year or less. This bill would increase Social Security benefits by \$1,342 a year for seniors making less than \$16,000 and would increase the program by adding payroll taxes for the wealthiest 1.8% of Americans. Lastly, this bill would restore student benefits and would raise the minimum benefit for recipients.

**Protect Our Widow(er) Retirement (POWR) Act
H.R. 1540**

Status: Introduced 3/05/2019

Summary: Women suffer a harder financial hit than men when losing a loved one. Because of the pay gap and the fact that women tend to earn less than men and outlive husbands, widows rely heavily on Social Security. Spousal deaths can cut an individual's Social Security benefits by 50%. This bill creates an alternative benefit for widows equal to 75% of the combined income both spouses received while alive.

**Fair COLA for Seniors Act of 2019
H.R.1553**

Status: Introduced 3/29/2019

Summary: Currently Social Security uses arbitrary measures to calculate the cost of living for seniors. This bill would require Social Security to use the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) to calculate the cost of living, a more accurate number that would likely result in increased social security benefits.

Gun Safety

Raise the Age Act H.R.717

Status: Introduced 1/23/2019

Summary: Under current law, one has to be 21 to buy a handgun, but can buy a semiautomatic rifle at 18 (the Parkland shooter was 18 when he legally purchased the gun used in the school shooting). This bill would raise the age to buy a semiautomatic firearm to 21.

Gun Violence Prevention Research Act of 2019 H.R.674/S.184

Status: Introduced 1/17/2019

Summary: In 2017, 40,000 Americans lost their lives to firearms. Congress also weakened a federal ban on research on gun violence in 2017, allowing the CDC to conduct research on the topic. These bills seek to appropriate funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for research on gun violence prevention and firearm safety.

Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019 H.R.8/S.42

Status: Introduced 1/08/2019; passed House 2/27/2019

Summary: Up to 80% of firearms used for criminal purposes are obtained by individuals without a background check. 97% of Americans, including Republicans and gun owners support requiring background checks for gun purchases. This act would close background check loopholes and would ensure that individuals prohibited from gun possession are not able to obtain firearms. On February 13th, the House Judiciary Committee moved this bill forward.

Assault Weapons Ban of 2019 H.R.1296/S.66

Status: Introduced 2/15/2019 (House), and 1/09/2019 (Senate)

Summary: The Las Vegas, Parkland, and Sutherland Springs shootings were all committed with assault weapons. This bill would ban assault weapons for civilians in the United States, though it does not have the same bipartisan support as background checks. Banning assault weapons is important, but with the NRA's investment in politics, such a ban coming to fruition would be incredibly challenging.

Gun Trafficking Prohibition Act

H.R.33

Status: Introduced 1/03/2019

Summary: This bill would create stand-alone criminal offenses for trafficking in firearms and straw purchasing of firearms. It would also expand the categories of people prohibited from owning guns to include people who intend to traffic or unlawfully export guns.

MISCELLANEOUS

S.959/H.R.1980: Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act

Senator Susan Collins [R-ME] and Representative Carolyn B. Maloney [D-NY-12]

This Act would direct the Smithsonian Institute to establish a women's history museum which will document the comprehensive history of women's contributions to the United States.